

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) The expenditure incurred in operating Gore Magnetite Project of Central Coalfields Limited during 1990-91 was Rs. 81. 69 lakhs.

(b) and (c). A quantity of 7,421 tonnes is lying in Gore Magnetite Project. As per financial accounts of the Coal company the value of the stock is Rs. 44.53 lakhs.

(d) A reference has been received from the Hon'ble member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) for re-starting the Gore Magnetite mine.

(e) Since the geological investigations carried out in the recent past do not show any encouraging result, the Board of directors of the Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) had decided to close the Gore Magnetite mine. The workers have already been re-deployed in other mines of CCL.

Indo-Saudi Joint Commission

**3477. SHRI E. AHAMED:
SHRI MORESHWAR SAVE:**

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indo-Saudi Joint Commission met recently at New Delhi;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether Saudi Arabia had sought India's participation in their projects;

(d) if so, the number of such projects and the amount involved in those projects; and

(e) the response of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) to (e). The third session of Indo-Saudi Joint Commission was held in New Delhi on the 13th and the 14th November of 1991. The deliberations showed that both sides were keen to strengthen bilateral, economic and technical cooperation. The Saudi side invited Indian participation in 50 projects with a total outlay of \$50 billion and the information on the projects is being disseminated to the interested Indian companies. Government warmly welcomes expansion and diversification of cooperation with Saudi Arabia including participation in projects there.

[Translation]

Drought in Bihar

**3478. SHRI KAMLA MISHRA
MADHUKAR:
SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD
SINGH:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:**

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bihar is facing unprecedented drought condition at present and the agricultural production is likely to suffer as a result thereof;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Bihar sought additional aid assistance from the Union Government to tackle the situation; and

(d) if so, the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). It is too early to indicate the size of